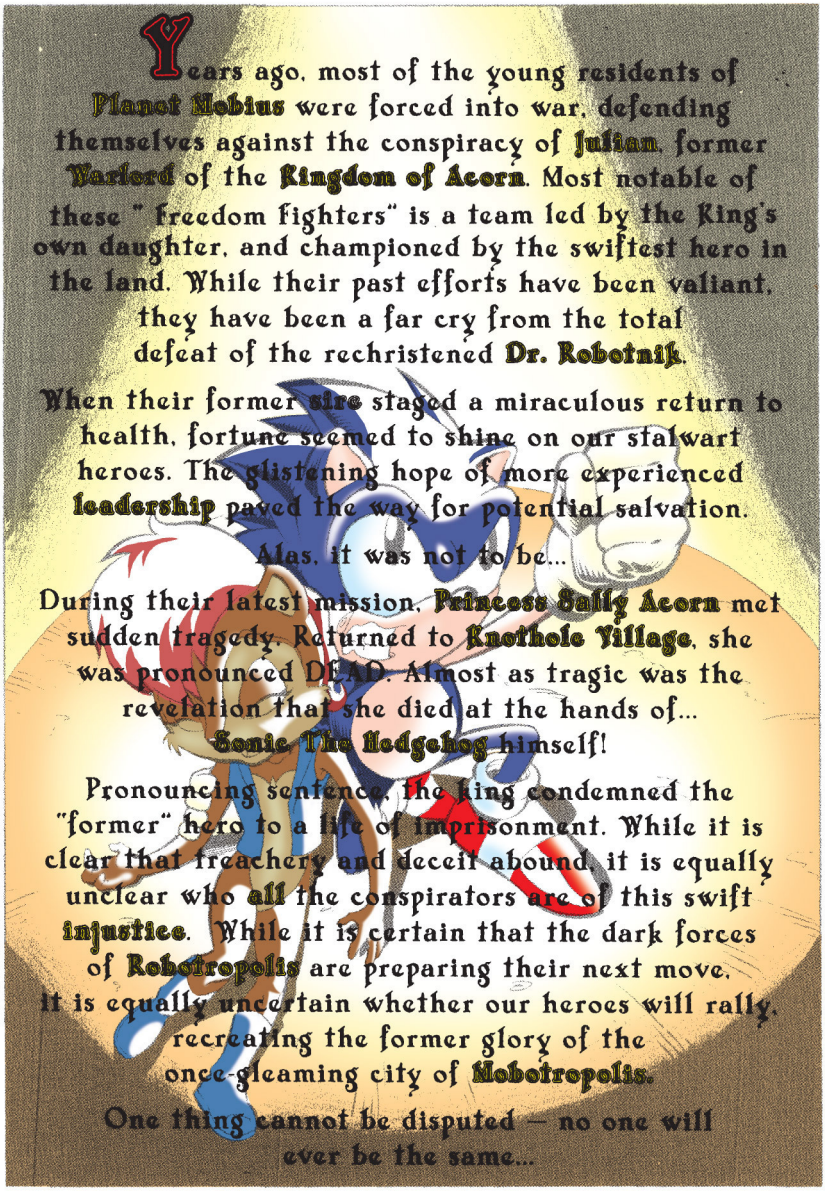
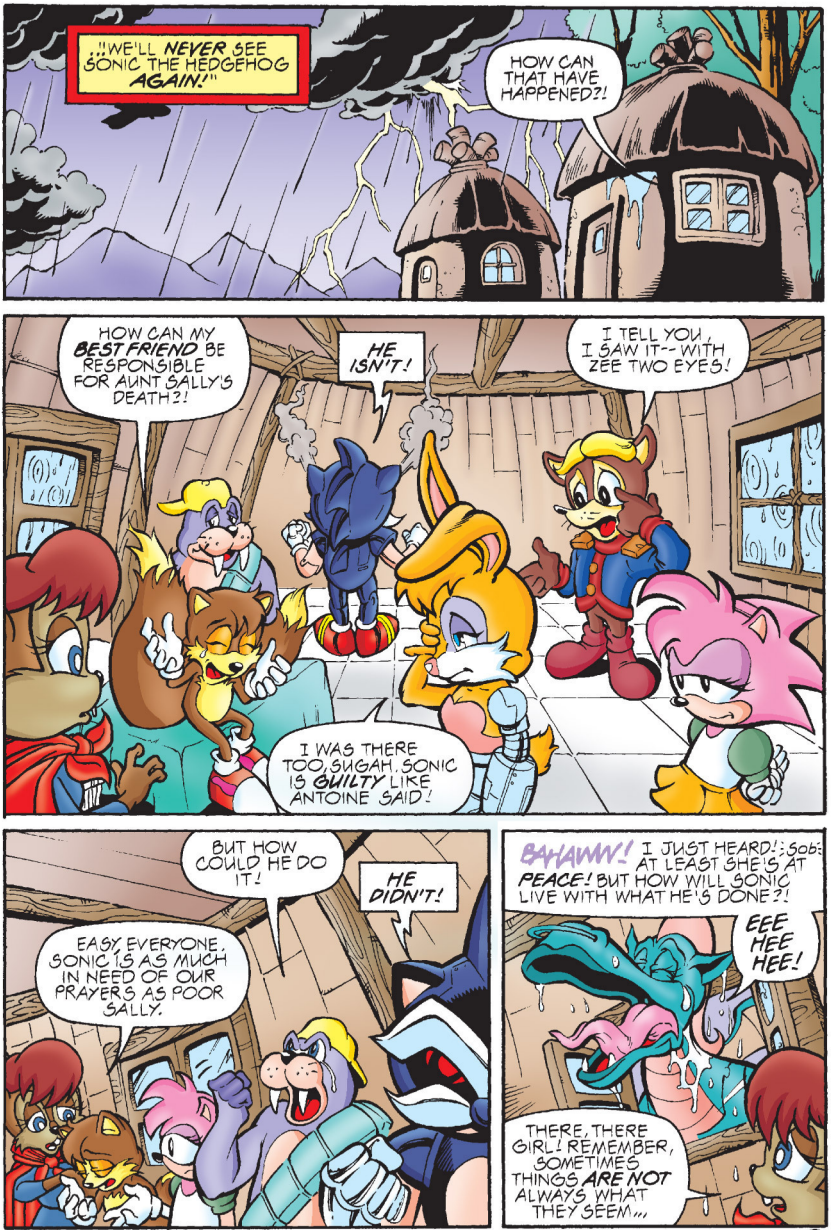
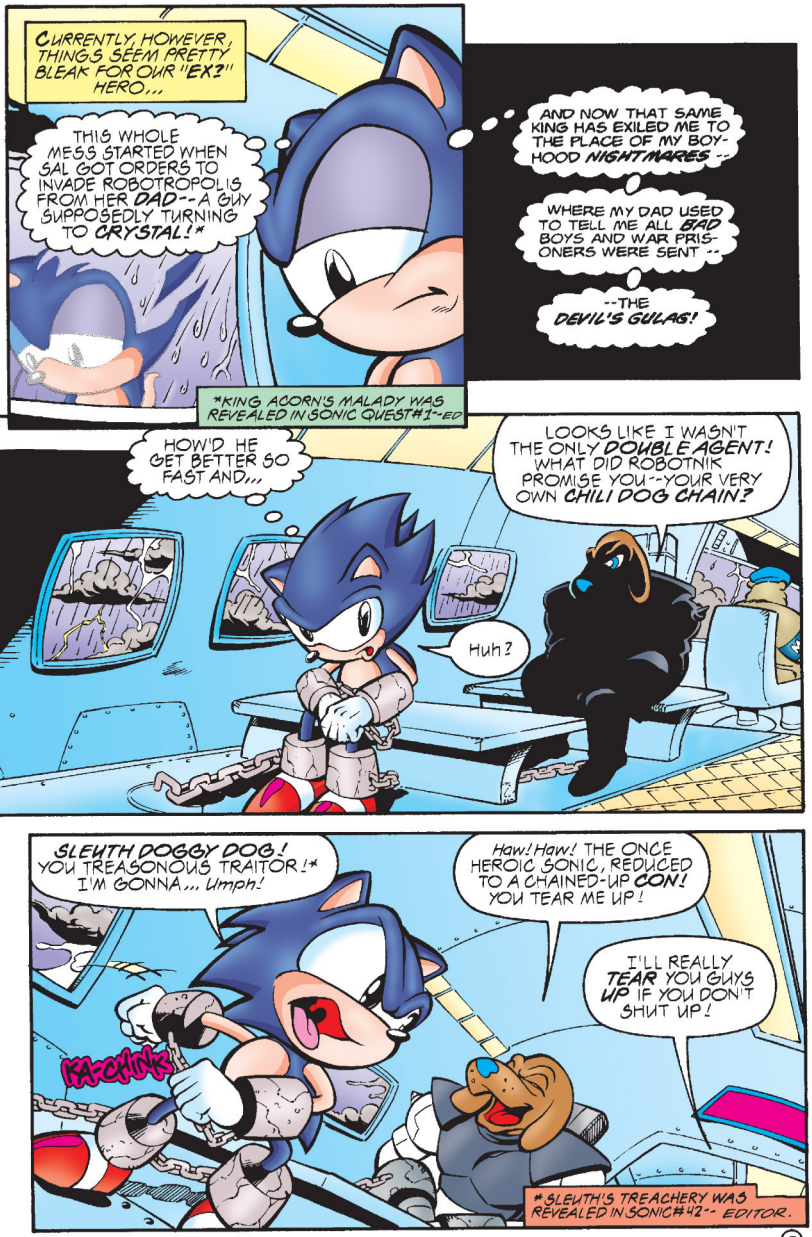
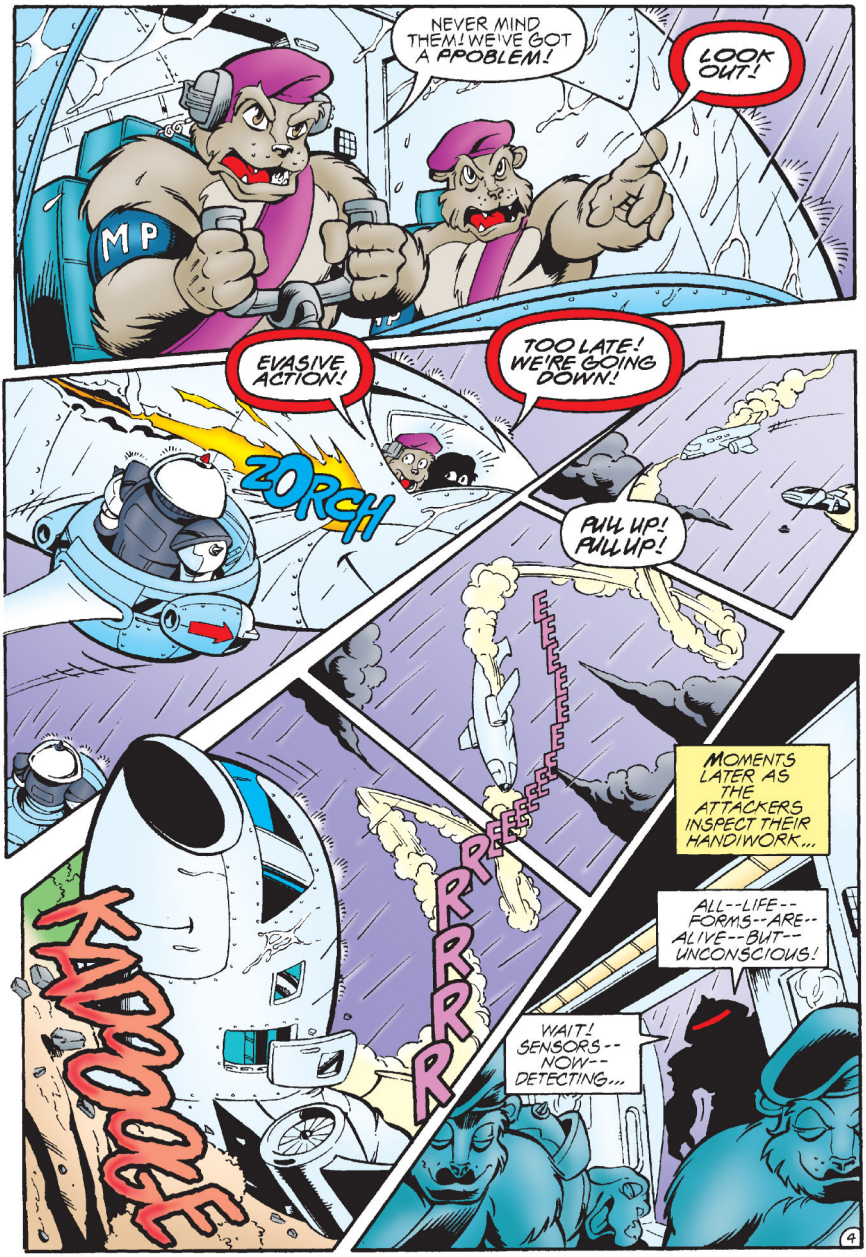
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.48 JULY
US $1.50
CAN $1.65
SONIC
THE FUGITIVE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ENDGAME
PART 2 OF 4
SPAZ


Years ago, most of the young residents of Planet Mobius were forced into war, defending themselves against the conspiracy of Julian, former Warlord of the Kingdom of Acorn. Most notable of these "freedom fighters" is a team led by the King's own daughter, and championed by the swiftest hero in the land. While their past efforts have been valiant, they have been a far cry from the total defeat of the rechristened Dr. Robotnik.
When their former sire staged a miraculous return to health, fortune seemed to shine on our stalwart heroes. The glistening hope of more experienced leadership paved the way for potential salvation.
Alas, it was not to be...
During their latest mission, Princess Sally Acorn met sudden tragedy. Returned to Knothole Village, she was pronounced DEAD. Almost as tragic was the revelation that she died at the hands of... Sonic The Hedgehog himself!
Pronouncing sentence, the King condemned the "former" hero to a life of imprisonment. While it is clear that treachery and deceit abound, it is equally unclear who all the conspirators are of this swift injustice. While it is certain that the dark forces of Robotropolis are preparing their next move, it is equally uncertain whether our heroes will rally, recreating the former glory of the once-gleaming city of Mobotropolis.
One thing cannot be disputed — no one will ever be the same...

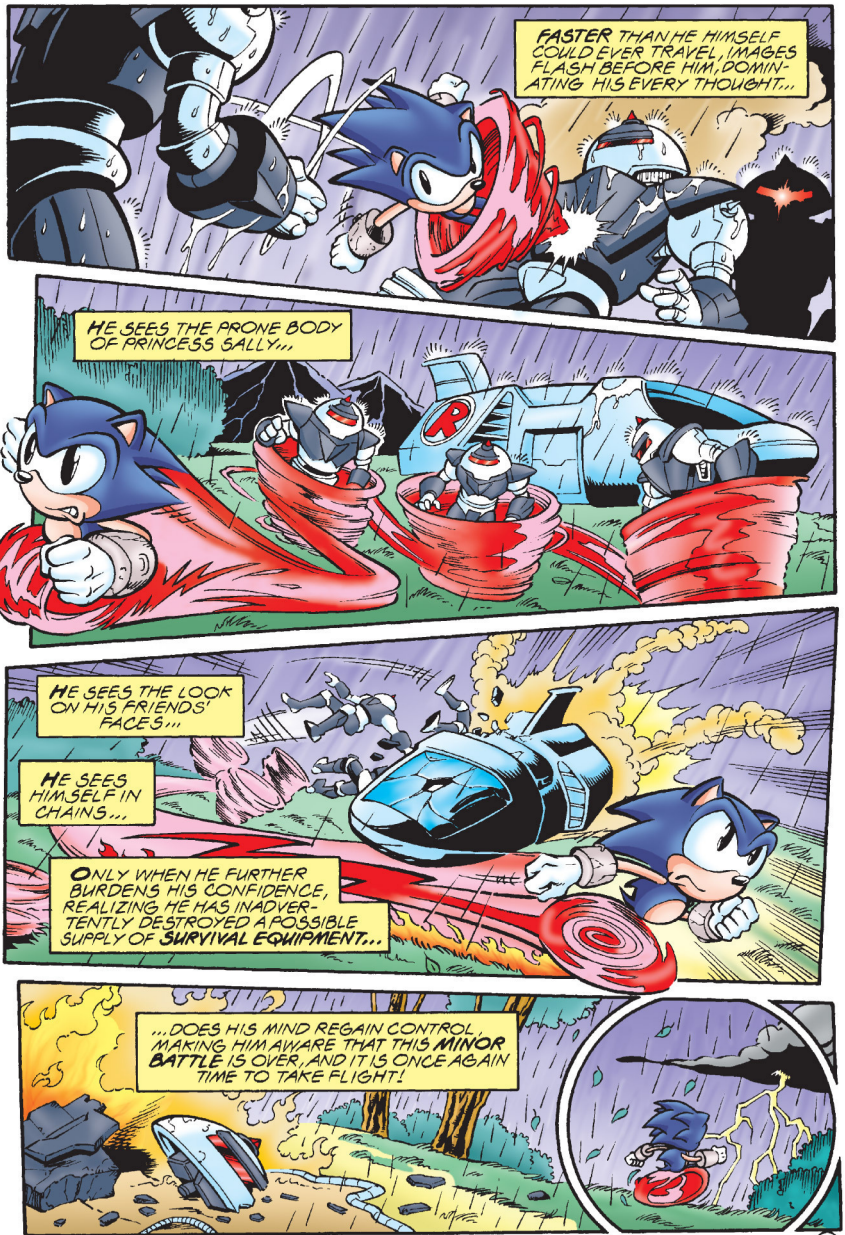
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SALLY'S DEATH!
I SAID YOU'RE GOING TO THE DEVIL'S GULAG. IT'S BEEN DEFUNCT SINCE THE GREAT WAR ENDED!
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE WAS DEAD UNTIL I RETURNED TO KNOTHOLE!
UNG!
WHAP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THE MISTAKE, MATE -- AND IT'LL BE YOUR LAST!
NEXT TIME BRING YOUR OWN PLANE! YOU BRUTES BETTER NOT PUT ZEE SCRATCH ON MY BEAUTY!
IS THAT ALL YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?!
DON'T WORRY, SONIC, WE'LL GET YOU BACK!
THE PLANE AND MY MEN WILL CERTAINLY BE COMING BACK, BUT WITH ANY LUCK...
GRRRRRRRRR
WHY YOU DIRTY--!!
THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ESCORT MY NEPHEW, NOT ELIMINATE HIM!


"...WE'LL NEVER SEE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AGAIN."
HOW CAN THAT HAVE HAPPENED?!
HOW CAN MY BEST FRIEND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AUNT SALLY'S DEATH?!
HE ISN'T!
I TELL YOU, I SAW IT-- WITH ZEE TWO EYES!
I WAS THERE TOO, SUGAH. SONIC IS GUILTY LIKE ANTOINE SAID!
BUT HOW COULD HE DO IT!
HE DIDN'T!
EASY EVERYONE. SONIC IS AS MUCH IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS AS POOR SALLY.
BAHAWW! I JUST HEARD! ;Sob: AT LEAST SHE'S AT PEACE! BUT HOW WILL SONIC LIVE WITH WHAT HE'S DONE?!
EEE HEE HEE!
THERE, THERE GIRL! REMEMBER, SOMETIMES THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM...

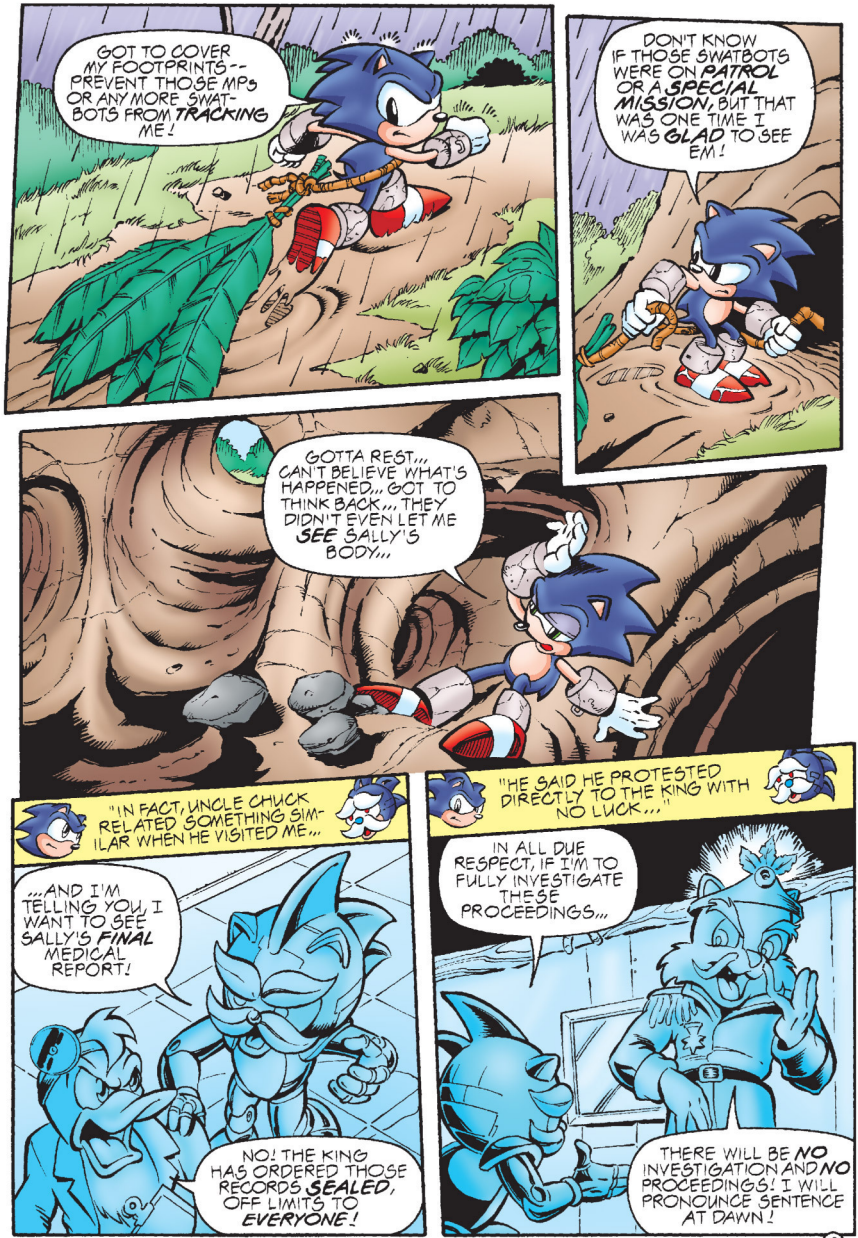

CURRENTLY, HOWEVER, THINGS SEEM PRETTY BLEAK FOR OUR "EX?" HERO...
THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED WHEN SAL GOT ORDERS TO INVADE ROBOTROPOLIS FROM HER DAD--A GUY SUPPOSEDLY TURNING TO CRYSTAL!*
AND NOW THAT SAME KING HAS EXILED ME TO THE PLACE OF MY BOYHOOD NIGHTMARES --
WHERE MY DAD USED TO TELL ME ALL BAD BOYS AND WAR PRISONERS WERE SENT --
--THE DEVIL'S GULAG!
*KING ACORN'S MALADY WAS REVEALED IN SONIC QUEST #1--ED
HOW'D HE GET BETTER SO FAST AND...
LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T THE ONLY DOUBLE AGENT! WHAT DID ROBOTNIK PROMISE YOU--YOUR VERY OWN CHILI DOG CHAIN?
Huh?
SLEUTH DOGGY DOG! YOU TREASONOUS TRAITOR!* I'M GONNA... Umph!
KACHINK
Haw! Haw! THE ONCE HEROIC SONIC, REDUCED TO A CHAINED-UP CON! YOU TEAR ME UP!
I'LL REALLY TEAR YOU GUYS UP IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP!
*SLEUTH'S TREACHERY WAS REVEALED IN SONIC #42-- EDITOR.

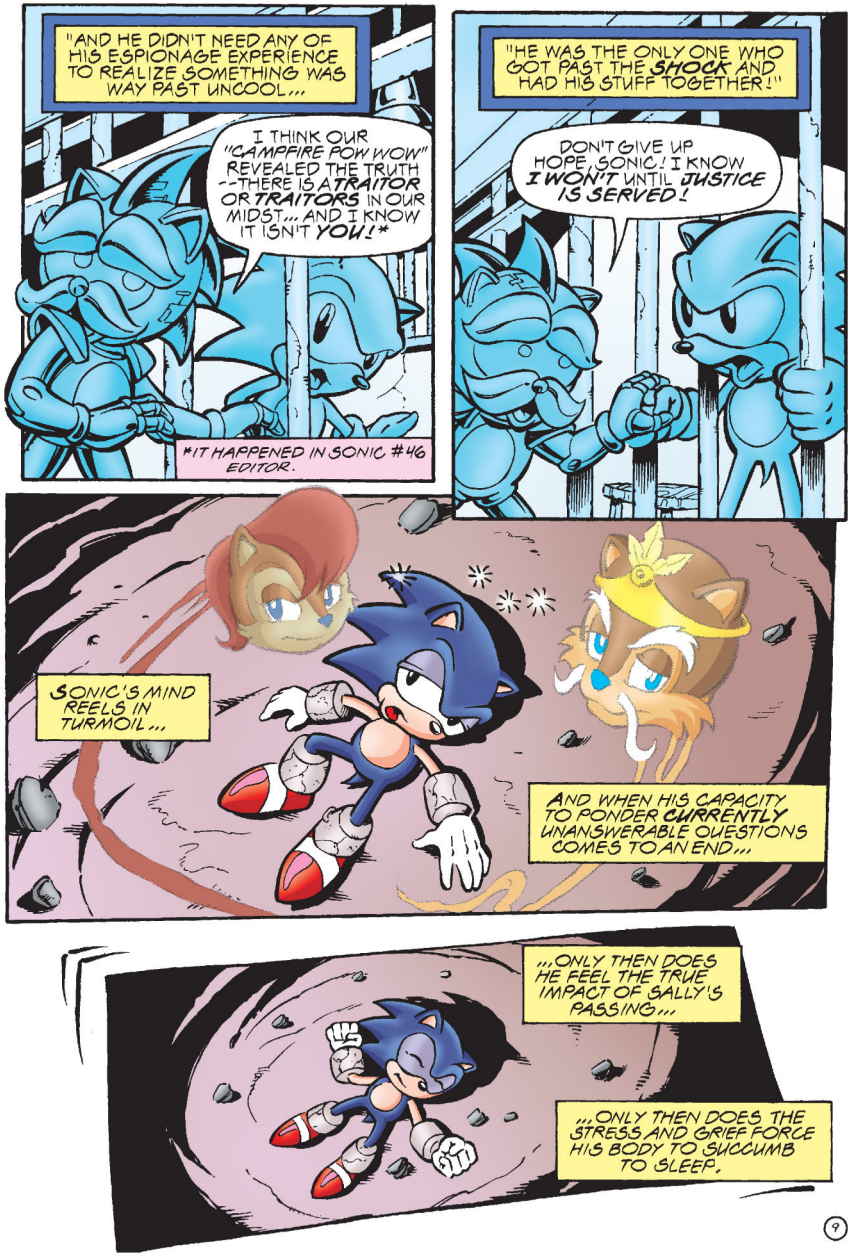

NEVER MIND THEM! WE'VE GOT A PPOBLEM!
LOOK OUT!
MP
EVASIVE ACTION!
TOO LATE! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
ZORCH
PULL UP! PULL UP!
EEEEEEEE
RRRRRR
KADOOOF
MOMENTS LATER AS THE ATTACKERS INSPECT THEIR HANDIWORK...
ALL--LIFE--FORMS--ARE--ALIVE--BUT--UNCONSCIOUS!
WAIT! SENSORS--NOW--DETECTING...
4

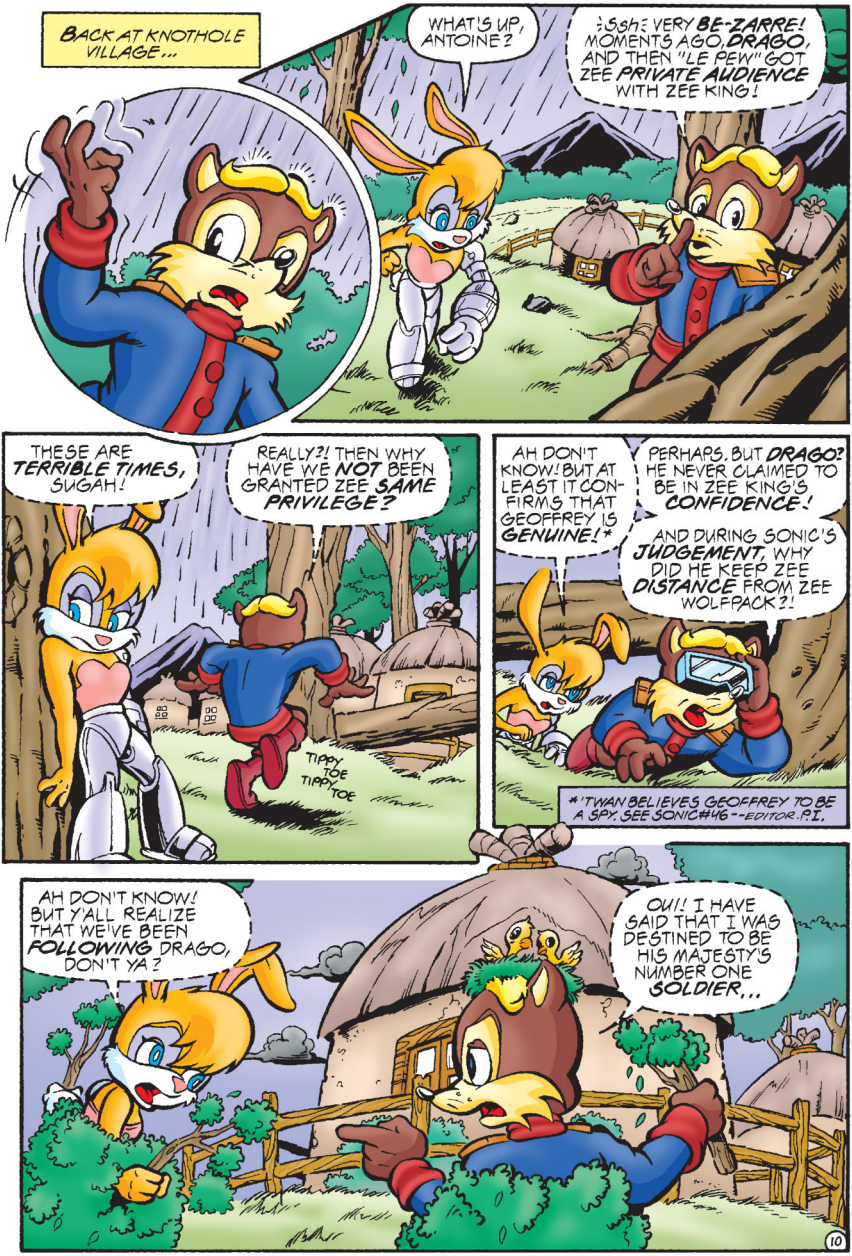
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
KRABLAMG
THOSE ARE THE LAST WORDS SONIC UTTERS...
NOT ONE SINGLE JOKE OR WISE-CRACK ESCAPES HIS LIPS...
BLANG CLANG BLONG
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, SONIC IS DEVOID OF HUMOR...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, SONIC TRULY UNDERSTANDS THE MEANING OF WAR...
HIS BODY IS ON AUTOPILOT, AS HE FIGHTS LIKE NEVER BEFORE...
THIS IS FORTUNATE, FOR HIS BRAIN IS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED...

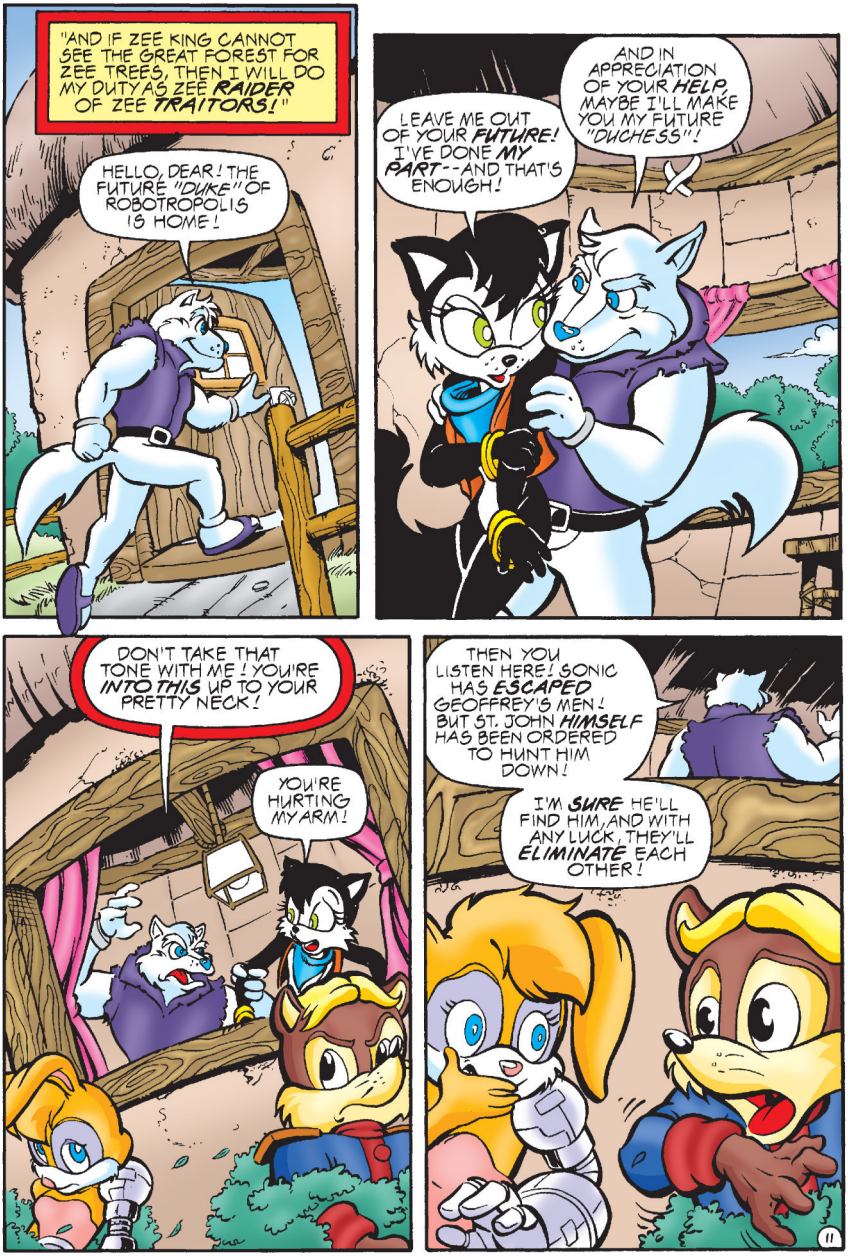

FASTER THAN HE HIMSELF COULD EVER TRAVEL, IMAGES FLASH BEFORE HIM, DOMINATING HIS EVERY THOUGHT...
HE SEES THE PRONE BODY OF PRINCESS SALLY...
HE SEES THE LOOK ON HIS FRIENDS' FACES...
HE SEES HIMSELF IN CHAINS...
ONLY WHEN HE FURTHER BURDENS HIS CONFIDENCE, REALIZING HE HAS INADVERTENTLY DESTROYED A POSSIBLE SUPPLY OF SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT...
...DOES HIS MIND REGAIN CONTROL, MAKING HIM AWARE THAT THIS MINOR BATTLE IS OVER, AND IT IS ONCE AGAIN TIME TO TAKE FLIGHT!

WHILE THE DEPARTING SONIC PONDERS HIS DESTINY, OTHERS ARE ALREADY PREPARING FOR HIS IMMEDIATE FUTURE...
Ahh, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, FORGIVE MY INTERRUPTION OF YOUR MEDITATIONS, BUT I'M GLAD I'VE CAUGHT YOU ALONE!
YOUR REPORTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, FAITHFUL DRAGO!
I'M SORRY TO REPORT THAT THE PLANE TRANSPORTING SONIC HAS CRASHED MILES AWAY FROM THE PLANNED DESTINATION...! THE MP'S ARE OKAY AND SNOOP IS STILL IN CUSTODY, BUT--
SONIC HAS ESCAPED!
PITY, IT APPEARS HE WILL HAVE TO BE HUNTED DOWN LIKE A DOG... OR BY DOGS!
SEND IN ST. JOHN...
SHORTLY...
YOUR MEN HAVE FAILED ME, GEOFFREY! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HAS ESCAPED!
...BUT MY MEN ARE THE FINEST-TRAINED SOLDIERS ANYWHERE!
GIVE ME NOT YOUR EXCUSES, MAN! I WON'T HAVE A MURDERER FREE IN MY SOON-TO-BE RESTORED KINGDOM!
FORGIVE ME, YOUR MAJESTY! I'LL ROUST MY MEN IMMEDIATELY! AND I MAKE YOU THIS PLEDGE--
--IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO I WILL RECAPTURE THAT HEDGEHOG!
7

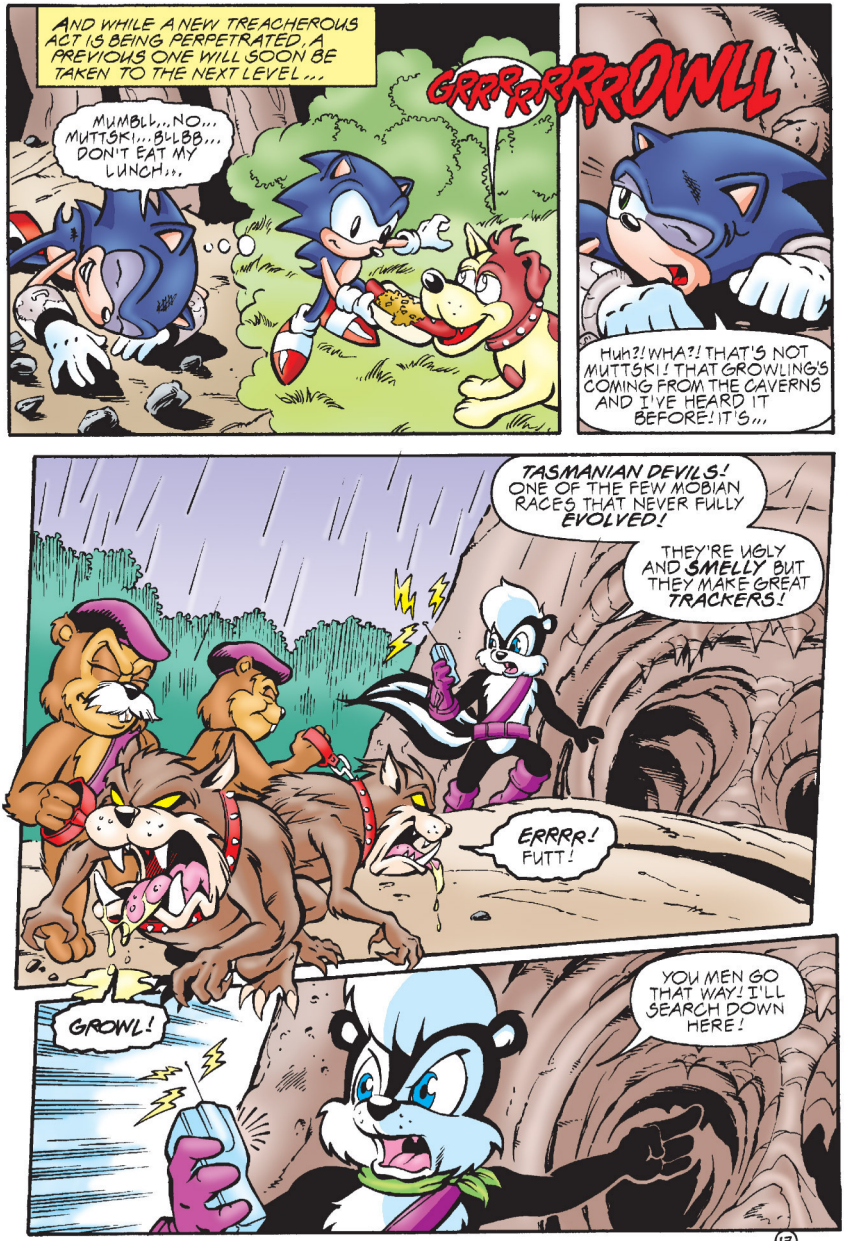

GOT TO COVER MY FOOTPRINTS -- PREVENT THOSE MPS OR ANY MORE SWATBOTS FROM TRACKING ME!
DON'T KNOW IF THOSE SWATBOTS WERE ON PATROL OR A SPECIAL MISSION, BUT THAT WAS ONE TIME I WAS GLAD TO SEE EM!
GOTTA REST... CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENED... GOT TO THINK BACK... THEY DIDN'T EVEN LET ME SEE SALLY'S BODY...
"IN FACT, UNCLE CHUCK RELATED SOMETHING SIMILAR WHEN HE VISITED ME...
...AND I'M TELLING YOU, I WANT TO SEE SALLY'S FINAL MEDICAL REPORT!
NO! THE KING HAS ORDERED THOSE RECORDS SEALED, OFF LIMITS TO EVERYONE!
"HE SAID HE PROTESTED DIRECTLY TO THE KING WITH NO LUCK..."
IN ALL DUE RESPECT, IF I'M TO FULLY INVESTIGATE THESE PROCEEDINGS...
THERE WILL BE NO INVESTIGATION AND NO PROCEEDINGS! I WILL PRONOUNCE SENTENCE AT DAWN!

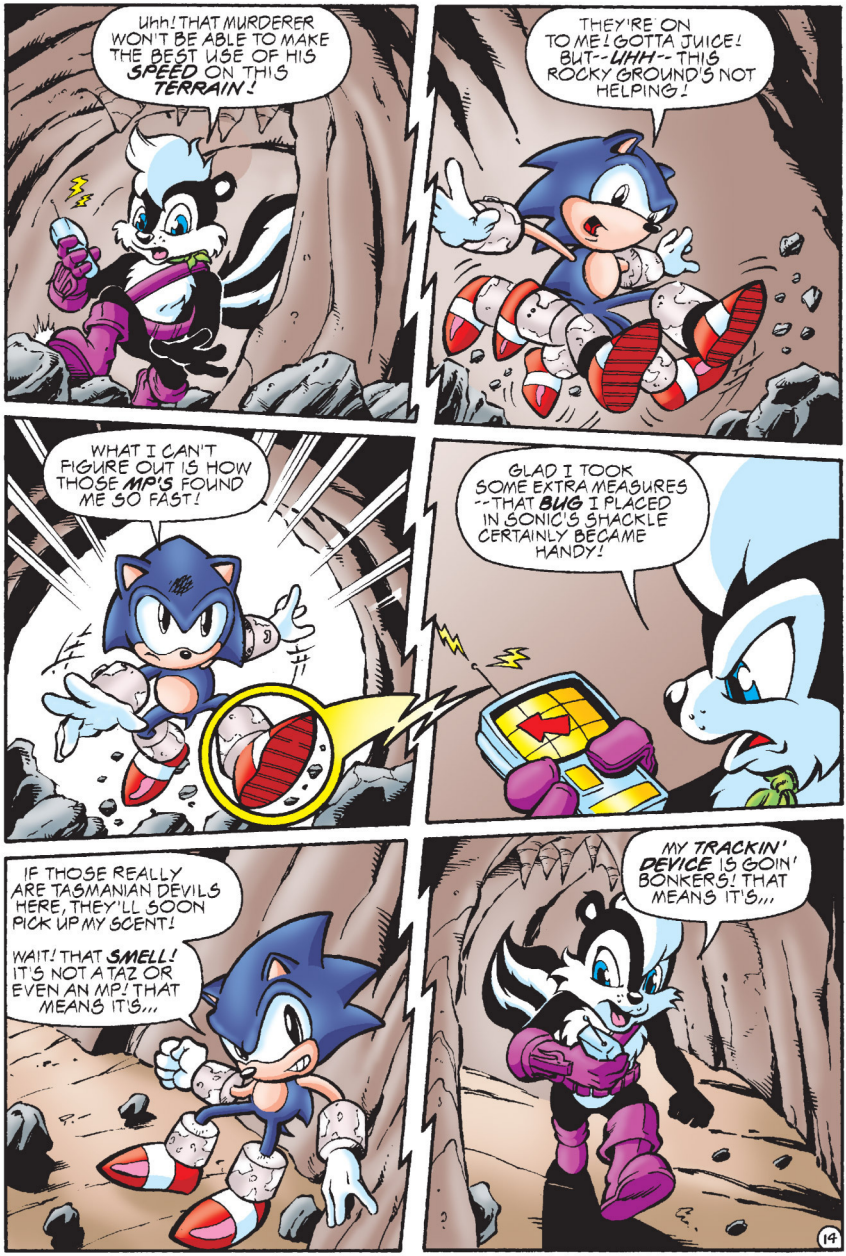

"AND HE DIDN'T NEED ANY OF HIS ESPIONAGE EXPERIENCE TO REALIZE SOMETHING WAS WAY PAST UNCOOL...
I THINK OUR "CAMPFIRE POW WOW" REVEALED THE TRUTH --THERE IS A TRAITOR OR TRAITORS IN OUR MIDST... AND I KNOW IT ISN'T YOU!*
*IT HAPPENED IN SONIC #46 EDITOR.
"HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT PAST THE SHOCK AND HAD HIS STUFF TOGETHER!"
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, SONIC! I KNOW I WON'T UNTIL JUSTICE IS SERVED!
SONIC'S MIND REELS IN TURMOIL...
AND WHEN HIS CAPACITY TO PONDER CURRENTLY UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS COMES TO AN END...
...ONLY THEN DOES HE FEEL THE TRUE IMPACT OF SALLY'S PASSING...
...ONLY THEN DOES THE STRESS AND GRIEF FORCE HIS BODY TO SUCCUMB TO SLEEP.

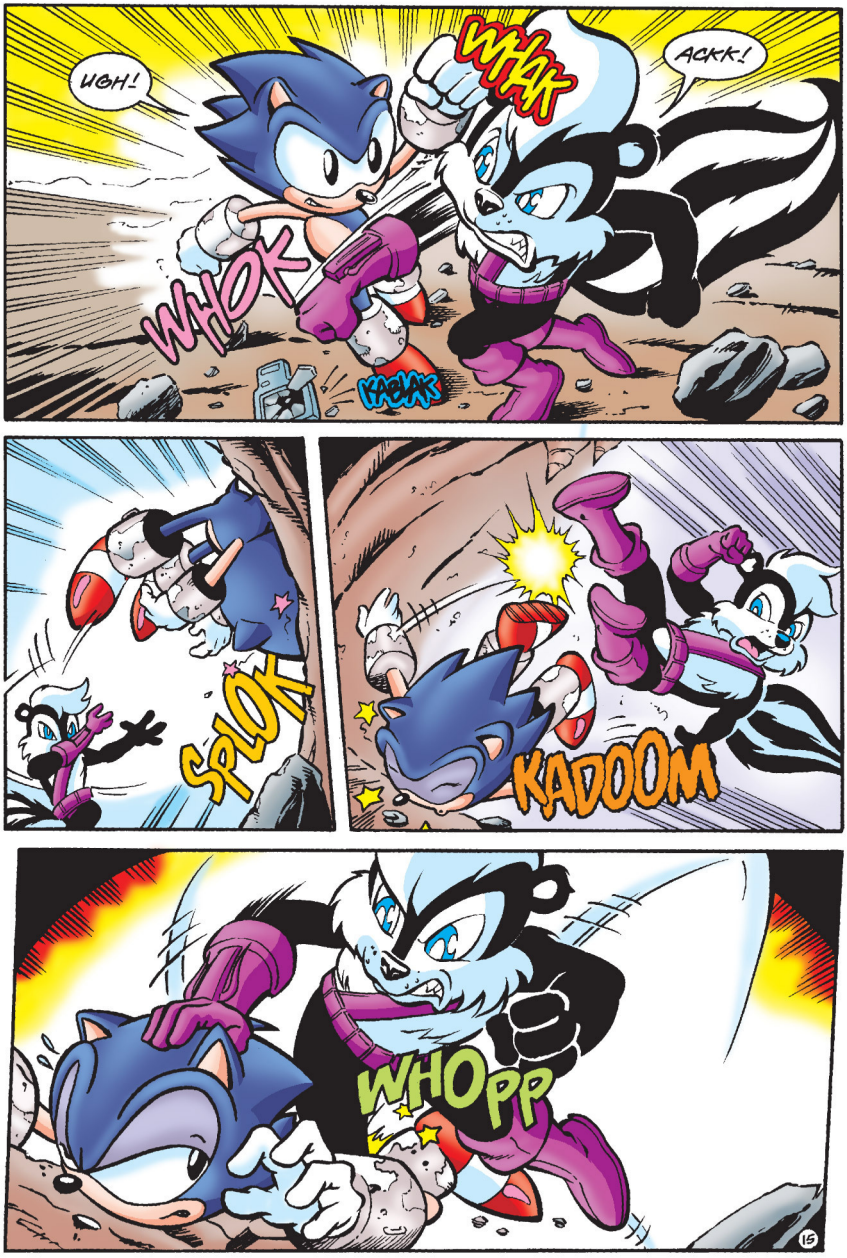

BACK AT KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
WHAT'S UP, ANTOINE?
;SSH; VERY BE-ZARRE! MOMENTS AGO, DRAGO, AND THEN "LE PEW" GOT ZEE PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH ZEE KING!
THESE ARE TERRIBLE TIMES, SUGAH!
REALLY?! THEN WHY HAVE WE NOT BEEN GRANTED ZEE SAME PRIVILEGE?
TIPPY TOE TIPPY TOE
AH DON'T KNOW! BUT AT LEAST IT CONFIRMS THAT GEOFFREY IS GENUINE!*
PERHAPS. BUT DRAGO? HE NEVER CLAIMED TO BE IN ZEE KING'S CONFIDENCE!
AND DURING SONIC'S JUDGEMENT, WHY DID HE KEEP ZEE DISTANCE FROM ZEE WOLFPACK?!
* 'TWAN BELIEVES GEOFFREY TO BE A SPY. SEE SONIC #46 --EDITOR. P.I.
AH DON'T KNOW! BUT Y'ALL REALIZE THAT WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING DRAGO, DON'T YA?
OUI! I HAVE SAID THAT I WAS DESTINED TO BE HIS MAJESTY'S NUMBER ONE SOLDIER...

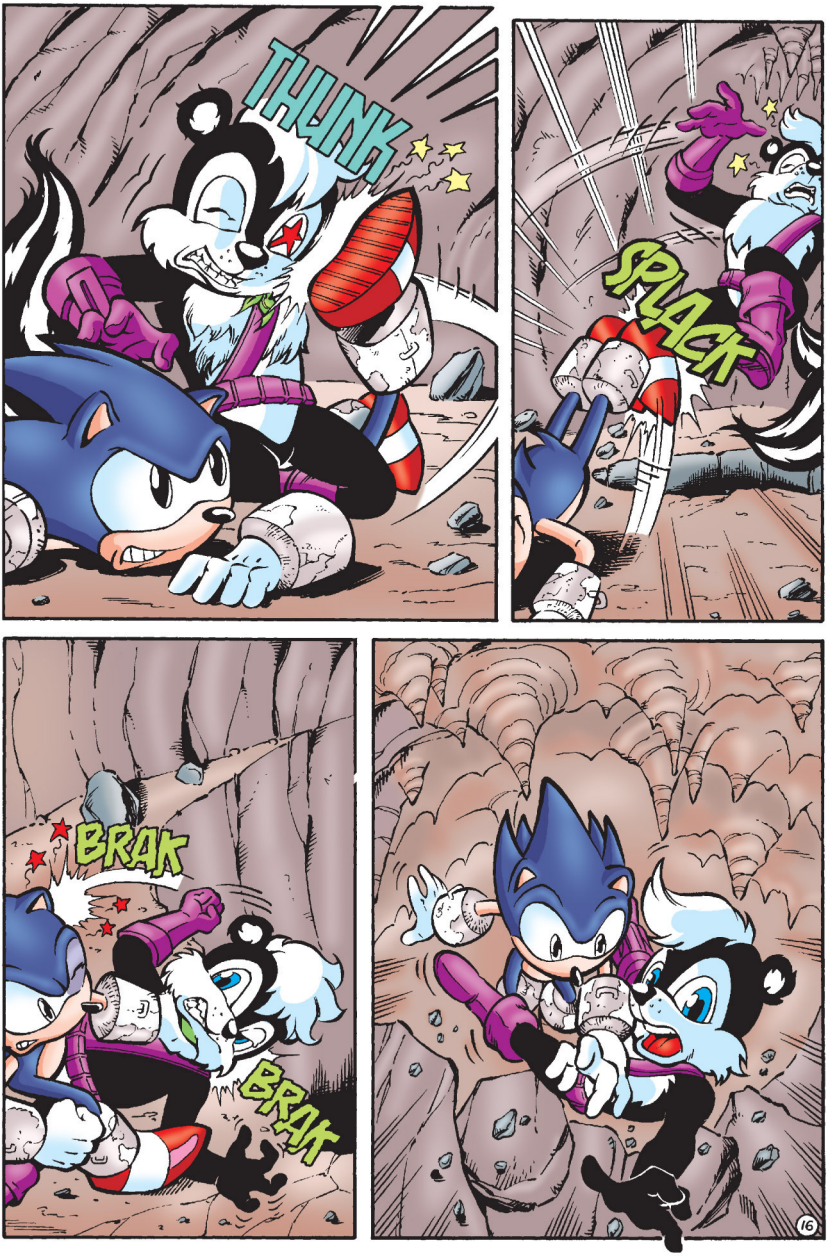

"AND IF ZEE KING CANNOT SEE THE GREAT FOREST FOR ZEE TREES, THEN I WILL DO MY DUTY AS ZEE RAIDER OF ZEE TRAITORS!"
HELLO, DEAR! THE FUTURE "DUKE" OF ROBOTROPOLIS IS HOME!
LEAVE ME OUT OF YOUR FUTURE! I'VE DONE MY PART--AND THAT'S ENOUGH!
AND IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR HELP, MAYBE I'LL MAKE YOU MY FUTURE "DUCHESS"!
DON'T TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME! YOU'RE INTO THIS UP TO YOUR PRETTY NECK!
YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!
THEN YOU LISTEN HERE! SONIC HAS ESCAPED GEOFFREY'S MEN! BUT ST. JOHN HIMSELF HAS BEEN ORDERED TO HUNT HIM DOWN!
I'M SURE HE'LL FIND HIM, AND WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL ELIMINATE EACH OTHER!
11

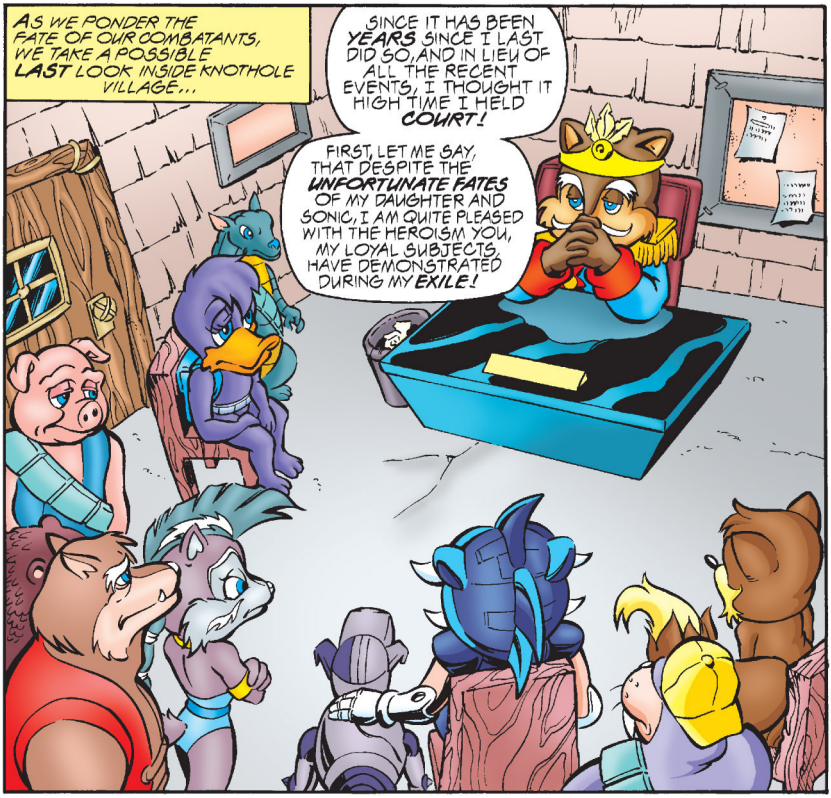
NOW KEEP YOURSELF READY! PLANS MAY DICTATE THE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES AGAIN!
DID YOU HEAR?
YES! AND YOU'RE RIGHT-- WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM!
SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS LATER...
WHERE DID HE GO? WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ZAT FAR BEHIND!
CLANK
Ehh?
KLUBB
I GUESS ST. JOHN HAS MADE A CORRECT ASSESSMENT OF SALLY'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS-- YOU ARE A BUNCH OF RANK AMATEURS!
ANT... Mmph!
TAKE 'EM AWAY, BOYS! THEY'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LITTLE TIME AT OUR PROJECT IN THE LAND DOWNUNDA! HehHehHeh!
12


AND WHILE A NEW TREACHEROUS ACT IS BEING PERPETRATED, A PREVIOUS ONE WILL SOON BE TAKEN TO THE NEXT LEVEL...
MUMBLL..NO... MUTTSKI!...BLBB... DON'T EAT MY LUNCH...
GRRRRRRRROWLL
Huh?! WHA?! THAT'S NOT MUTTSKI! THAT GROWLING'S COMING FROM THE CAVERNS AND I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE! IT'S...
TASMANIAN DEVILS! ONE OF THE FEW MOBIAN RACES THAT NEVER FULLY EVOLVED!
THEY'RE UGLY AND SMELLY BUT THEY MAKE GREAT TRACKERS!
ERRRR! FUTT!
GROWL!
YOU MEN GO THAT WAY! I'LL SEARCH DOWN HERE!


Uhh! THAT MURDERER WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF HIS SPEED ON THIS TERRAIN!
THEY'RE ON TO ME! GOTTA JUICE! BUT--UHH-- THIS ROCKY GROUND'S NOT HELPING!
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS HOW THOSE MP'S FOUND ME SO FAST!
GLAD I TOOK SOME EXTRA MEASURES --THAT BUG I PLACED IN SONIC'S SHACKLE CERTAINLY BECAME HANDY!
IF THOSE REALLY ARE TASMANIAN DEVILS HERE, THEY'LL SOON PICK UP MY SCENT!
WAIT! THAT SMELL! IT'S NOT A TAZ OR EVEN AN MP! THAT MEANS IT'S...
MY TRACKIN' DEVICE IS GOIN' BONKERS! THAT MEANS IT'S...


UGH!
WHAK
ACKK!
WHOK
KACHAK
SPLOK
KADOOM
WHOPP


THUNK
SPLACK
BRAK
BRAK


AS WE PONDER THE FATE OF OUR COMBATANTS, WE TAKE A POSSIBLE LAST LOOK INSIDE KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
SINCE IT HAS BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST DID SO, AND IN LIEU OF ALL THE RECENT EVENTS, I THOUGHT IT HIGH TIME I HELD COURT!
FIRST, LET ME SAY, THAT DESPITE THE UNFORTUNATE FATES OF MY DAUGHTER AND SONIC, I AM QUITE PLEASED WITH THE HEROISM YOU, MY LOYAL SUBJECTS, HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING MY EXILE!

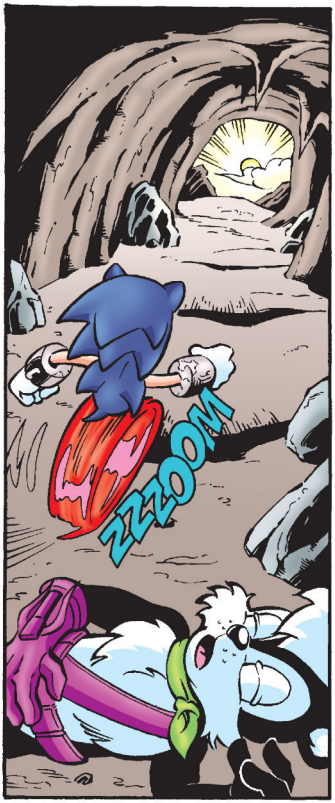
HOWEVER, YOUR EFFORTS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN FUTILE!
THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FIGHTING AND TOO LITTLE PROGRESS--WHICH I ATTRIBUTE TO YOUR GENERAL LACK OF ABILITY.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE SEEN FIT, FOR THE GOOD OF THE KINGDOM, TO REINSTATE THE POSITION OF WARLORD IN OUR REALM.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND MY CANDIDATE MORE THAN EXPERIENCED TO DO THE JOB... THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE!
LOYAL SUBJECTS, I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE...

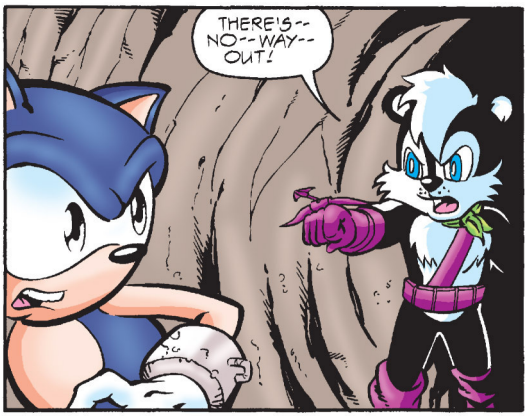
Robotnik!
IN KNOTHOLE?!
KA-CHUNK! KA-CHUK! KA-CHUK!
KRACKALE
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME!
SPREE-TOW
Hmm... QUAINT.
FLA-KOOM
...BUT ULTIMATELY... INFERIOR.

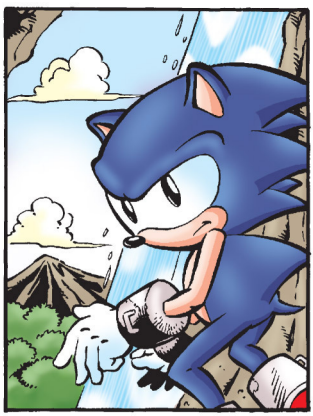
PLEASE... STAY... ON MY ACCOUNT!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE? SIR CHARLES AND MUTTSKI... THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE DESTRUCTION OF SOME OF MY BEST-LAID PLANS!
NO MATTER. YOU'RE JUST IN NEED OF AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT!
IN FACT, YOU ARE ALL IN NEED OF ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS!
THAT IS FINE. AFTER ALL... I DO HAVE THE TIME...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

...AND LEST YOU THOUGHT WE FORGOT...
THUMP
YOU MURDERED HER!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
YOU KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVE!
DON'T YOU SAY THAT! YOU ONLY LOVE YOURSELF!
I LOVED HER!
BRACK
KA-DACK


ZZZOOM!

ARGH!
NO!


THERE'S--
NO--WAY--
OUT!



Brought to you with pride by

script KENT TAYLOR & KEN PENDERS *penciler* MANNY GALAN
inker PAM EKLUND *letterer* JEFF POWELL *colorist* KARL BOLLERS
editor J. FREDDY GABRIE *mng. editor* VICTOR GORELICK
editor-in-chief RICHARD GOLDWATER